

Smith, Tasha

From: Dennis Tulimieri Jr. <dennis.jr@tulimieri.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:06 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Written Testimony Supporting Proposed House Bill 7285, An Act Concerning Complaints That Allege Misconduct By Law Enforcement Agency Personnel

**Written Testimony Supporting
Proposed House Bill 7285, An Act Concerning Complaints That Allege Misconduct By Law
Enforcement Agency Personnel**

Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Dennis Tulimieri, Jr, and I am a proud resident of the state of Connecticut. I am writing to testify in support of Proposed House Bill 7285, which intends to ensure compliance with the provisions of section 7-294bb of the Connecticut general statutes concerning the acceptance, processing, and investigation of a complaint from a member of the public relating to alleged misconduct committed by law enforcement agency personnel.

We have raised 3 children in this state and encouraged them to be adults of character - transparency, above all, is what encourages faith in each other, in our friends and family, and in our government. In light of the threats to our collective civil liberties I can no longer remain silent or stand by and watch. I write to this distinguished committee in the spirit of that latter lesson today.

Proposed House Bill 7285 recognizes that our police complaint process is broken, but it could go further to fix it. I therefore support the intention of Proposed House Bill 7285, but ask this committee to amend this bill so that its intent is fully realized. A recent survey by the ACLU of Connecticut clearly shows that many Connecticut police agencies still make it difficult for members of the public to obtain information regarding complaint forms and processes easily. In some cases, this lack of transparency violates state law. It is clear that we must amend H.B. 7285 to:

- 1) establish meaningful penalties for law enforcement agencies that do not comply with state complaint acceptance and investigation laws,
- 2) create a standardized complaint form that is compliant with best practices and translated into all commonly-spoken languages in Connecticut, and
- 3) require law enforcement agencies to track complaint data and to annually report specific complaint information to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Establishing a transparent, accessible police complaint process is necessary for creating a truly fair and just police force in Connecticut—one that community members like me can trust and depend on. Amending H.B. 7285 will encourage the community's faith in the police complaint process and ensure that we are holding our law enforcement agencies accountable.

I urge the members of this committee to amend and support Proposed House Bill 7285.

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